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Congo (K) - Portugal: President Mobutu is continuing to seek improved relations with Portugal. (Page 5)

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Congo (K) - Portugal: President Mobutu, concerned with the need to ensure a secure border with Angola, is continuing to seek improved relations with Portugal.

Mobutu's latest efforts are aimed at restricting the activities of Holden Roberto's Angolan Revolutionary Government in Exile (GRAE), one of two major insurgent groups operating in Portuguese Angola. The Congo Government for years has given sanctuary and some support to GRAE. [REDACTED]

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Although Mobutu will probably not break completely with GRAE in order to maintain his pronationalist credentials with black African states, he apparently is unimpressed with GRAE's potential for ousting the Portuguese from Angola. Moreover, Mobutu fears that continued GRAE incursions into Angola could lead to Portuguese retaliation and jeopardize the unofficial relationship that Mobutu has been developing with the Portuguese.

Mobutu's concern for a secure border is motivated in large part by his uncertain relations with the radical Brazzaville government. Despite the recent reconciliation, Mobutu continues to regard extremists in Brazzaville as a major threat and apparently hopes the Portuguese will allow continued use of Angolan territory for training Brazzaville exiles supported by Kinshasa.

The Congo's Katanga Province is dependent on Angola's Benguela railroad for essential imports and copper exports. Mobutu is particularly anxious that guerrilla attacks not provoke the Portuguese to use their substantial retaliatory capabilities, including stopping Congolese traffic over this line.

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